(c) A team of experts from US ITC is expected to visit India during August, 2005. Government is yet to receive official confirmation from the US ITC in this regard.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) US ITC is yet to announce its decision on revision of anti-dumping duties.

Guidelines set by Trade and Economic Relations Committee

249. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trade and Economic Relations Committee headed by Prime Minister met in the month of June and decided to set guidelines for future trade negotiations and enhancing flow in the country;

(b) if so, whether in the meeting the Commerce Minister presented a current status and future roadmap for a host of possible FTAs and RTAs to the Trade and Economic Relations Committee; and

(c) if so, what other decision were taken by the Committee and what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) headed by the Prime Minister met in the month of June, 2005 where a presentation on "India's engagement in Regional Trading Arrangements" was made.

(c) Action has been initiated on the following major decisions taken by the TERC were:—

(i) Reports of existing Joint Study Groups would be brought for consideration in the TERC before further action is taken.

(ii) Possibility of consolidation of ICRIER, RIS and IIFT to set up an autonomous institute of trade and foreign economic policy would be examined.

(iii) Issues of Capacity Building in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and Industry would be taken up.

(iv) Discussion papers for enhancement of level of economic engagement with Bangladesh, Pakistan, BIMSTEC and ASEAN would be prepared.

Foreign trade under FTAs

† 250. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign trade with serveral other countries of the world is done on the basis of Free Trade Agreements;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with which foreign trade of India is going on till date under Free Trade Agreements; and

(c) the value of export and import in terms of money during the year 2004-05 and during first three months of 2005-06 separately with each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) India had entered into a free Trade Agreement only with Sri Lanka *w.e.f.* 28th December, 1998.

(c) In respect of trade with Sri Lanka for the year 2004-05, the total export from India to Sri Lanka was amounting to Rs. 6082.60 crore, whereas import from Sri Lanka during this period was to the tune of Rs. 1636.65 crore. Provisional trade data for April and May, 2005 stood at exports worth Rs. 979.05 crore to Sri Lanka and imports worth Rs. 335.20 crore from Sri Lanka (Source Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) Kolkata).

Joint Business Council between India and Pakistan

251. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Pakistan endorsd India's proposal for setting up of a Joint Business Council for greater economic cooperation between the two countries;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.